

Made It Myself

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Home-Built Snow Plow Tractor Is A Real Workhorse

"Around here, if you need something fixed or built, you go to see Fred," says Ballinfad, Ontario, farmer Bob Anderson, about Fred Mowatt, a Burk's Falls-area innovator.

Anderson contacted FARM SHOW about one of Mowatt's most remarkable accomplishments, an industrial grade, go-anywhere, move-anything 4-WD snow plow/tractor he built from scratch 12 years ago.

Put together almost entirely from spare parts he had on hand, Mowatt's tractor resembles a commercial timber skid loader. But it's completely unlike anything on the market.

"It's hydraulically articulated so it goes around trees, through mud, anywhere you can't go with what's commercially available," says Mowatt. "The operator sits dead center, just like on a big 4-WD tractor, but it's really a medium-sized vehicle. It's just built a lot stronger than anything you could buy."

In fact, Mowatt once pulled a 12 by 68-ft. mobile home weighing 17,500 lbs. out of a foot of mud with his tractor, he notes.

A German-built V-6 engine out of a Ford Mustang powers Mowatt's snow plow/tractor. The motor mounts in front of the vehicle's frame, which is made out of a 1960's vintage International truck frame.

Weighing approximately 3,000 lbs., the

9-ft. long by 6 1/2-ft. wide vehicle is chain driven with number 80 industrial strength chain. A 3-to-1 reduction unit from a 4-speed Ford truck transmission to the final drive, instead of the more common 2-to-1 unit, gives the vehicle extra pulling and pushing power.

Mowatt made the 4-WD system out of Ford 1-ton truck differentials and fitted the vehicle with four heavy-duty V-grip 12-in. wide tires.

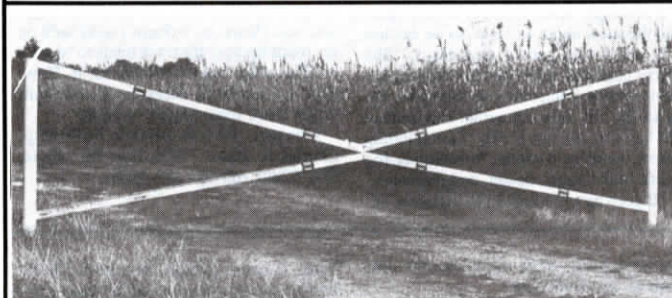
To articulate the plow/tractor, Mowatt used a 2-way hydraulic cylinder with 15-in. stroke. He attached pin assemblies, like those on a timber skid loader, to hinge the sections of the frame, permitting them to turn.

There are hydraulics on the front of the tractor, too. These lift the tractor's 8-ft. wide snow blade, which can be set manually at a right or left angle.

Mowatt mounted a heavy-duty drawbar on the back for heavy pulling.

I just needed something better than you could buy, a real workhorse that would do all my heavy work," he says. "The only thing it needs right now is a new coat of paint since the red's faded in the past 12 years."

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Horizontally-Mounted "Triangle" Gates

FARM SHOW's "roving" reporter C.F. Marley puts on a lot of miles cruising rural Midwestern roads. He recently spotted this farm gate built by Ed Kalaher, Carlinville, Ill., and thought it was worth a photo.

Made of steel pipe and 2-in. sq. tubing, the gate consists of two triangular-shaped sides welded to metal pipes that slip over smaller pipes anchored in the ground. The gates swing back and forth freely on the

smaller pipes.

The two sides of the gate meet in the center where they're held together with a simple latch.

"Makes a simple gate that's very sturdy. It would work particularly well on long spans because they're so light yet self-supporting when latched together at center," notes Marley.



Self-Powered Pull-Behind Mower

By Bonnie Heidtke

Ronald Reiser had a design all worked out in his head for his "Sidewinder" pull-behind mower before he ever started working on it. Once he picked up a wrench, it took just 15 hrs. to put it together.

The mower deck is off a 1956 Deere and he powers it with an 8 hp. Briggs & Stratton with electric starter. Parts of the frame are from an old JC Penny mower.

The axle and wheels came off a junked garden tractor and he made the tongue out of scrap metal. He also made his own exhaust system for the mower because he wanted to keep the noise down. By using a bigger muffler and redirecting exhaust downward, he was able to keep it relatively quiet.

"I can hear it start and I can hear the engine rev up, but I have to listen carefully to hear it after that," he says.

He mounted a pto lever behind the driver's seat which engages the mower deck. He constructed a small control panel around the pto lever for the ignition switch and throttle.

He put the wheels ahead of the engine and widened them out more than he would have had to in order to keep the 150-lb. unit stable on steep hillsides.

An electric screw jack raises and lowers the deck. To unhook, he drops it all the way down to the ground, which raises the jack, then he pulls a pin and drives away.

A 12-volt battery mounts on top of the unit to run the starter.

Reiser pulls the mower behind his 18-year-old 10-hp. Cub Cadet lawn tractor with a 42-in. deck. In second gear, it used to take 2 1/2 hrs. to mow 2 1/2 acres of lawn. The add-on deck cut mowing time nearly in half and reduced fuel consumption to nearly half by the Cub Cadet. The Sidewinder uses just "two cups" of gas for the 2.5 acres.

It cost just \$60 to build the mower from used parts. Reiser is considering putting plans together for the unit.

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He Built Tire Turner For \$30

Fred Marolf of Motley, Minn., has turned more than 600 tractor tires inside out using a home-built tire turner he built for less than \$30.

Inside-out tires make good cattle and hog feeders since there's no longer any place for feces or water to hide.

Marolf cut a used 38-in. tractor rim in half and fitted it with three steel pull cables. He made hold-down hooks out of a wooden wagon wheel. He cuts off the top bead and then pulls the tractor rim up through the tire using a winch mounted on the back of his home-built 4-WD tractor. The tire is held to the ground by the hold-down hooks that are anchored to the ground.

"I'm able to turn tires ranging from 26 to 38 in. dia. with the one wheel rim," says Marolf.

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Marolf, Rt. 2, Box 72, Motley, Minn. 56466 (ph 218 397-2337).

Cocklebur Hopper For Deere Combine

"We built a hopper under our 4400 Deere combine to remove those troublesome cockleburs that escape chemical control in the field," says Milton Schrader, Alexandria, S. Dak.

"We open the chaffer sieve just enough to allow cockleburs to drop onto the cleaning sieve and then the return auger picks them up and drops them into the hopper. We then dump the cockleburs and burn them after harvest. Keeps burrs from getting into our bins or dropping back onto the ground behind the combine.

"The hopper is positioned under the return auger on the left side of the combine. We just removed part of the shroud around the return auger by removing 4 bolts. I made finger spikes and clamped them to the auger to spread burrs in the hopper."

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